

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1687

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PINR EC NL

SUBJ: DR. FRANCISCO URBINA ORTIZ, NEW ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR
TO THE NETHERLANDS

REF: 75 QUITO 6996

1. UNTIL ASSUMING HIS DUTIES IN THE NETHERLANDS, DR. URBINA WAS APPARENTLY ON LEAVE IN ECUADOR WITHOUT ASSIGNMENT FROM THE FONMIN SINCE MID-1975. AT THAT TIME, HE HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE MIDDLE EAST (IRAN, IRAQ, QATAR, UAE), BUT HIS ASSIGNMENT WAS CANCELED AT THE LAST MINUTE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THE GOE FELT THAT ITS OPEC POLICY WAS NOT DEFINED ENOUGH AT THAT TIME TO HAVE AN AMBASSADOR IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHOSE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO DEAL WITH OPEC MATTERS. URBIN HAS SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN (1974-75) AND TO AUSTRIA, AND HE HAS HELD DIPLOMATIC POSTS IN PERU, ARGENTINA, THE NETHERLANDS (WHERE HE WAS CHARGE 1957-59), AND THE UN. IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HE HAS SERVED AS CHIEF OF PROTECOL, POLITICAL ADVISOR, AND ADVISOR ON TERRITORIAL AFFARIS.

2. AMBASSADOR URBINA WAS BORN IN GUAYAQUIL IN 1918 AND HAS BEEN WITH THE FONMIN SINCE 1942. HE HOLDS A DOCTORATE IN JURISPRUDENCE AND ALSO STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AIX-EN-PROVENCE AND THE FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN FRANCE. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND FRENCH AND GOOD GERMAN AND ITALIAN. HE IS CONSIDERED VERY CULTURED
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AND SUAVE, AND IS VEHEMENTLY ANTI-COMMUNIST. URBINA IS

A BACHELOR.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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